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Nathan Summers, the mutant mercenary known as Cable, has been charged with protecting the first mutant born since M-Day. To that end, he abandoned his home and his allies and leapt with the child into the timestream.

Previously in CABLE...

In the future: After a vicious encounter with his relentless pursuer Lucas Bishop, Cable has leapt forward nine decades with the so-called Messiah Child, finding safe haven in New Liberty, a secluded town hidden safely behind a cloaking device. Here, Cable, the little girl in his care, and his newlywed wife Hope have spent two-and-a-half years living in peace in this community, his battle-worn armor and weapons all but forgotten and buried safely in the ground.

Meanwhile, Bishop's recent time-jumps to the present have hit a major snag: He's been captured by the X-Force and brought to the X-Men's new West Coast headquarters. Under the not-so-gentle interrogation by Emma Frost, Bishop reveals to the Cyclops his ingenious master plan: By systematically destroying the Earth of the future, rendering entire continents uninhabitable, Bishop intends to fence Cable in until he's left with virtually nowhere to hide.

Cable is about to feel the first ripple effect of Bishop's plan. When two wounded men stumble through the force field that surrounds the city, they are followed by armored soldiers. The United States Army has come to New Liberty– and they don't come in peace.

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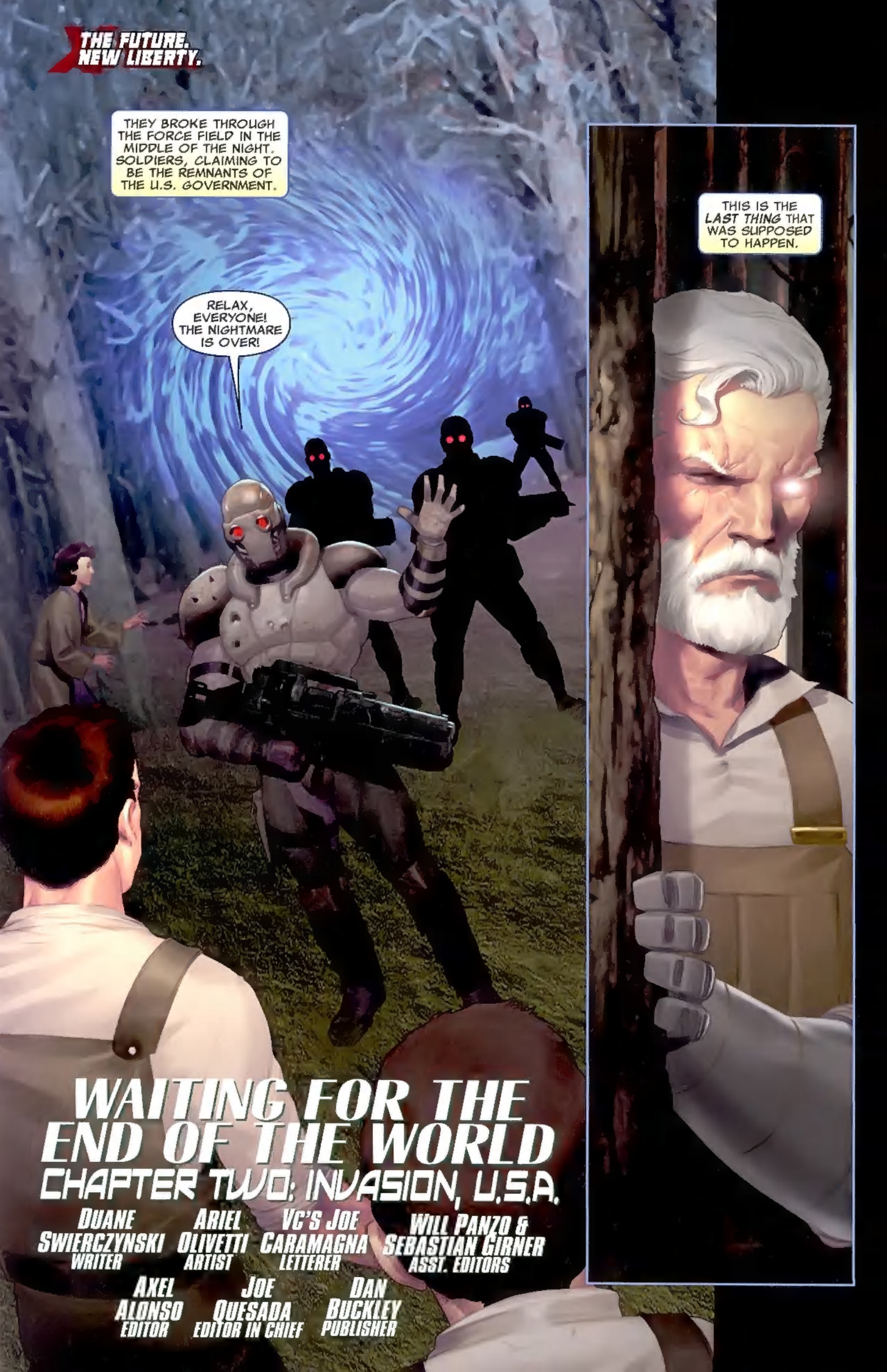
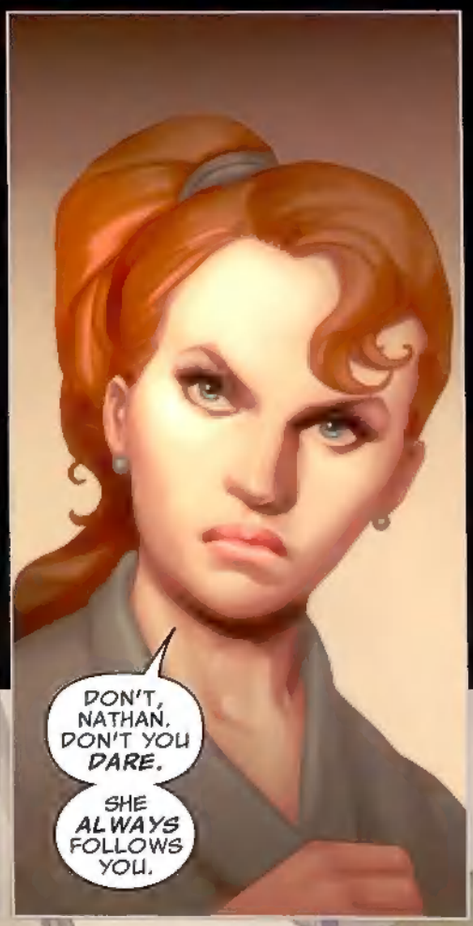

THE FUTURE. NEW LIBERTY.
THEY BROKE THROUGH THE FORCE FIELD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. SOLDIERS, CLAIMING TO BE THE REMNANTS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.
RELAX, EVERYONE! THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER!
THIS IS THE *LAST THING* THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.
WAITING FOR THE END OF THE WORLD
CHAPTER TWO: INVASION, U.S.A.
DUANE SWIERCZYNSKI WRITER
ARIEL OLIVETTI ARTIST
VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA LETTERER
WILL PANZO & SEBASTIAN GIRNER ASST. EDITORS
AXEL ALONSO EDITOR
JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

BUT AT THAT MOMENT, I COULDN'T GET BOGGED DOWN IN AN ALTERNATE HISTORY LESSON.
FOR SOME REASON, *THIS* NEW LIBERTY, IN *THIS* TIMELINE, WASN'T SAFE.
WHICH MEANT WE HAD TO LEAVE QUIETLY. UNOBSERVED.

I COULDN'T EVEN TELL HOPE.
WHAT'S GOING ON, NATHAN?
WHERE IS SHE?
SHE'S NOT WITH YOU?

DAMNIT! HOW COULD YOU LET HER--


DON'T, NATHAN. DON'T YOU *DARE*.
SHE *ALWAYS* FOLLOWS YOU.

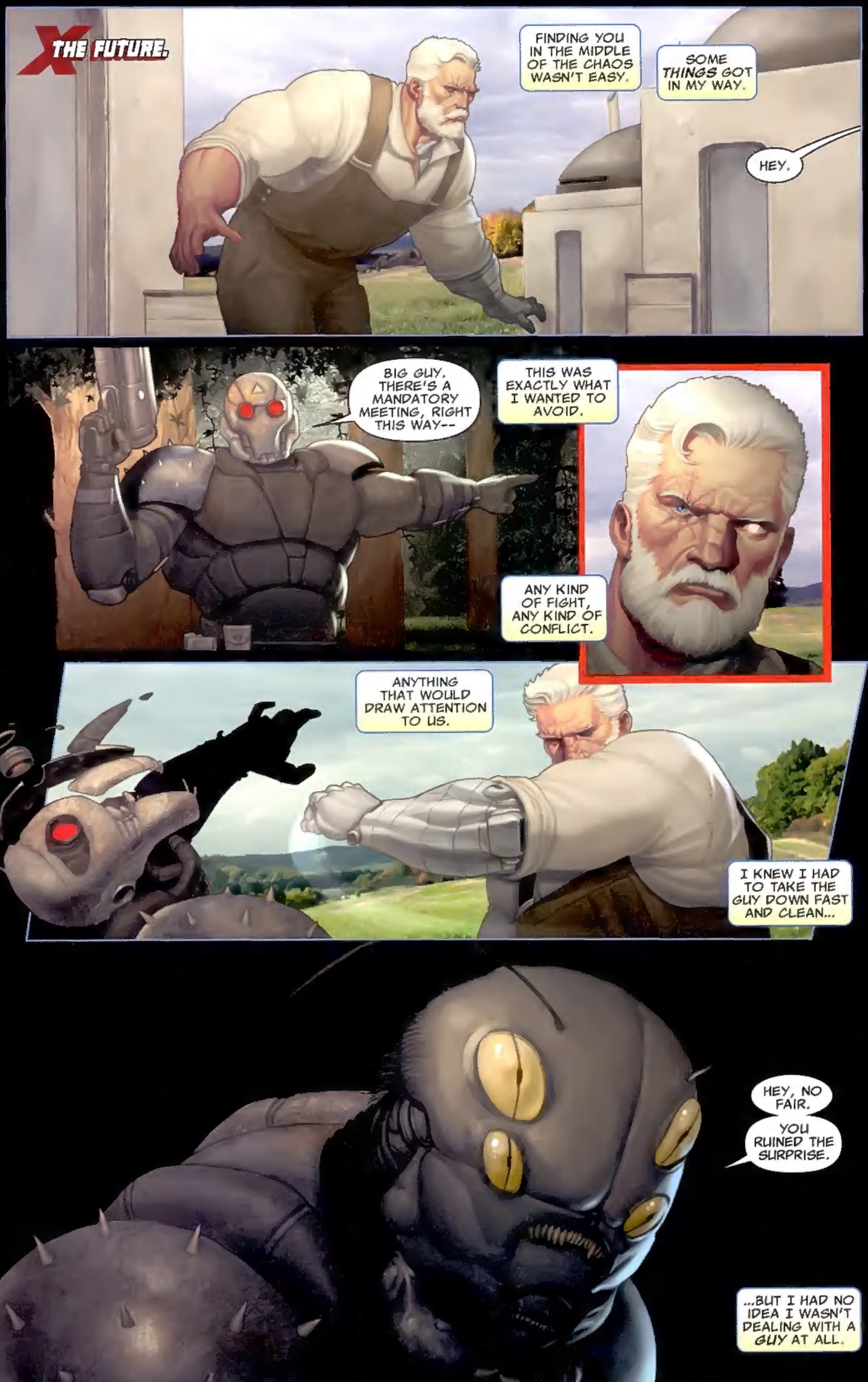
WHEN WE FIRST GOT TOGETHER, HOPE TEASED ME FOR BEING *OVERPROTECTIVE*.
WE WERE TOGETHER A LONG TIME BEFORE I TRUSTED HER ENOUGH TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU ALONE. EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY A FEW *MINUTES*.
IT WAS A SOURCE OF CONSTANT TENSION BETWEEN US.

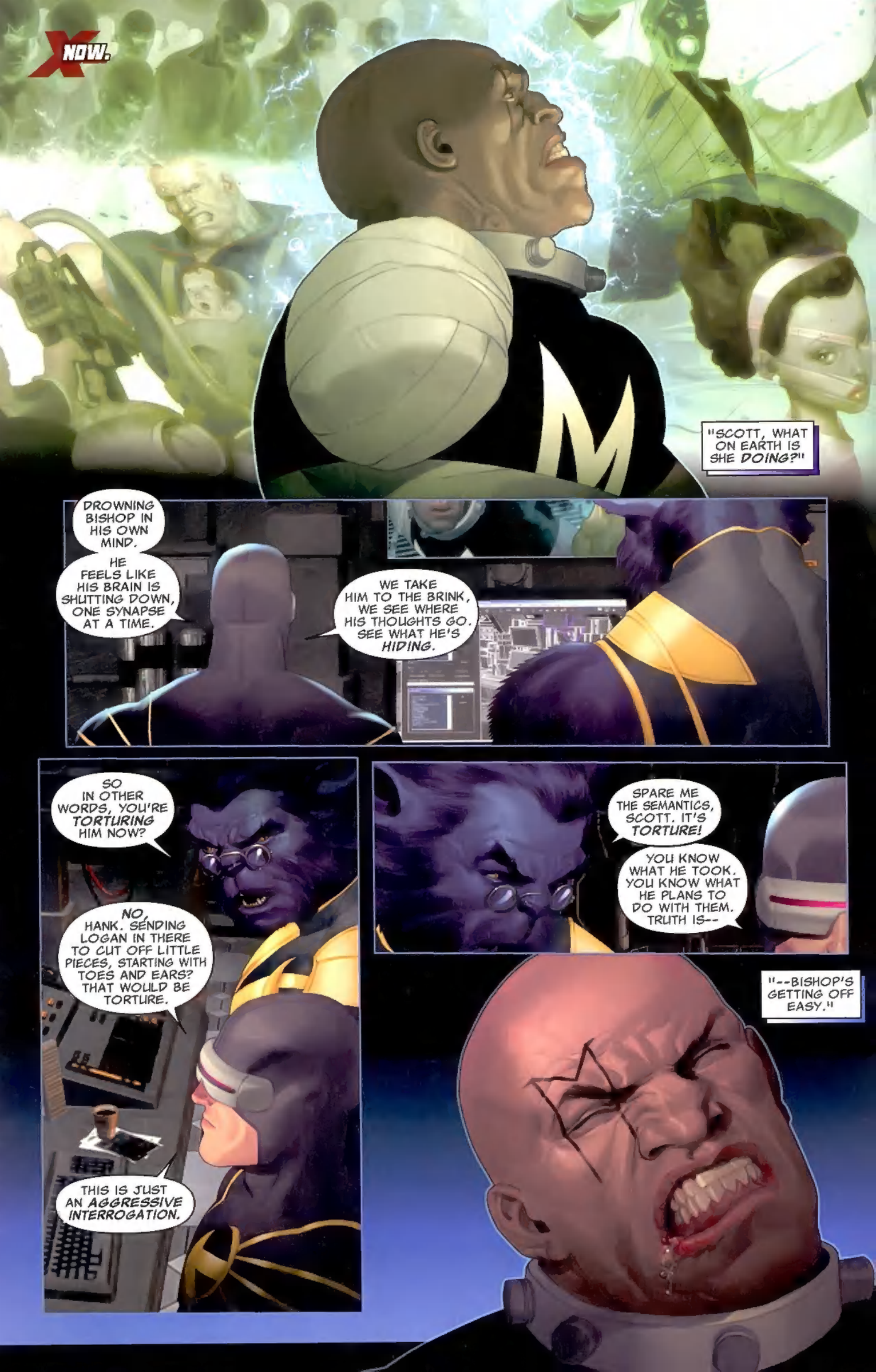
MY WEAPONS WENT INTO THE GROUND THE DAY WE MARRIED. I TOLD MYSELF I'D SETTLED US INTO A NEW LIFE. A NEW PEACE.
THERE WAS NO TIME TO DIG THEM UP NOW.
MY FIRST PRIORITY--MY *ONLY* PRIORITY--WAS FINDING YOU.

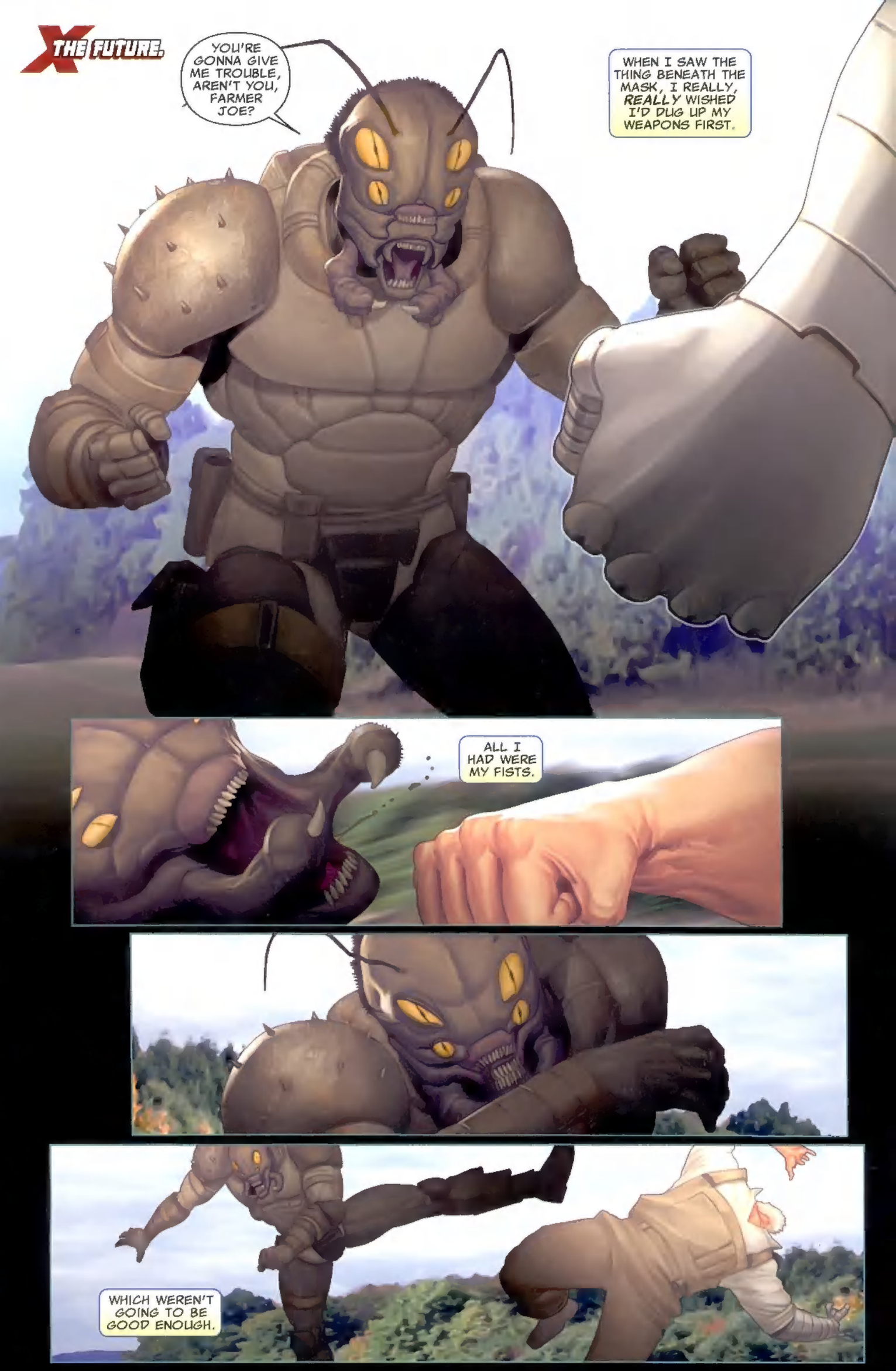
NOW. X-MEN HQ. SAN FRANCISCO.
REMEMBER THAT OLD JOKE ABOUT THE ONLY TWO WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM A NUCLEAR BLAST?
YOU EITHER STOP THE BOMB FROM GOING OFF...
...OR BE VERY, VERY FAR FROM THE BOMB WHEN IT DOES.
LAST CHANCE.
TELL US WHERE AND WHEN YOU PLANTED THEM.
DON'T WORRY, SCOTT. YOU'LL BE DEAD LONG BEFORE THE FIRST ONE BLOWS.
WHERE AND WHEN, LUCAS.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO ABOUT IT, EVEN IF I DID TELL YOU?
GOT A SPARE TIME MACHINE LAYING AROUND?
YOU KNOW, FOR A MAN WHO WANTS TO CONVINCE ME OF HIS SIDE OF THINGS, YOU'RE DOING A REALLY #$%^& JOB.

AT LEAST WE KNOW *WHAT* HE TOOK. IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE-- SHIPPING MANIFESTS, GOVERNMENT REPORTS...
AND THAT DOESN'T HELP CABLE OR THE BABY ONE BIT.
DO YOU *REALLY* THINK LUCAS IS CAPABLE OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
I MEAN, BASED ON WHAT'S HERE, ON THESE LISTS...WE'RE TALKING ABOUT GLOBAL *GENOCIDE*.
BISHOP DOESN'T BELIEVE THE TIMELINE WHERE CABLE IS HIDING IS *REAL*.
APPARENTLY, IT'S NOT ANYTHING LIKE HE REMEMBERS FROM HIS FUTURE. NOR IS IT CABLE'S FUTURE.
"BISHOP BELIEVES THAT IF HE KILLS THE BABY, HE'S HITTING A GIANT *RESET BUTTON*. THE TIMELINE ERASES ITSELF. HE SAVES A MILLION PEOPLE AND *MUTANTKIND*."
DESTROY THE WORLD, DESTROY THE BABY, SAVE THE WORLD.

MY GOD.
WHICH IS WHY I HAVE TO DO THIS.
DO WHAT, SCOTT?
<EMMA?>
<OH, THIS IS SO NOT GOING TO BE FUN.>


THE FUTURE.
FINDING YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CHAOS WASN'T EASY.
SOME THINGS GOT IN MY WAY.
HEY.
BIG GUY. THERE'S A MANDATORY MEETING, RIGHT THIS WAY--
THIS WAS EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED TO AVOID.
ANY KIND OF FIGHT, ANY KIND OF CONFLICT.
ANYTHING THAT WOULD DRAW ATTENTION TO US.
I KNEW I HAD TO TAKE THE GUY DOWN FAST AND CLEAN...
HEY, NO FAIR.
YOU RUINED THE SURPRISE.
...BUT I HAD NO IDEA I WASN'T DEALING WITH A GUY AT ALL.


"SCOTT, WHAT ON EARTH IS SHE DOING?!"
DROWNING BISHOP IN HIS OWN MIND.
HE FEELS LIKE HIS BRAIN IS SHUTTING DOWN, ONE SYNAPSE AT A TIME.
WE TAKE HIM TO THE BRINK, WE SEE WHERE HIS THOUGHTS GO. SEE WHAT HE'S HIDING.
SO IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE TORTURING HIM NOW?
NO, HANK. SENDING LOGAN IN THERE TO CUT OFF LITTLE PIECES, STARTING WITH TOES AND EARS? THAT WOULD BE TORTURE.
THIS IS JUST AN AGGRESSIVE INTERROGATION.
SPARE ME THE SEMANTICS, SCOTT. IT'S TORTURE!
YOU KNOW WHAT HE TOOK. YOU KNOW WHAT HE PLANS TO DO WITH THEM. TRUTH IS--
"--BISHOP'S GETTING OFF EASY."

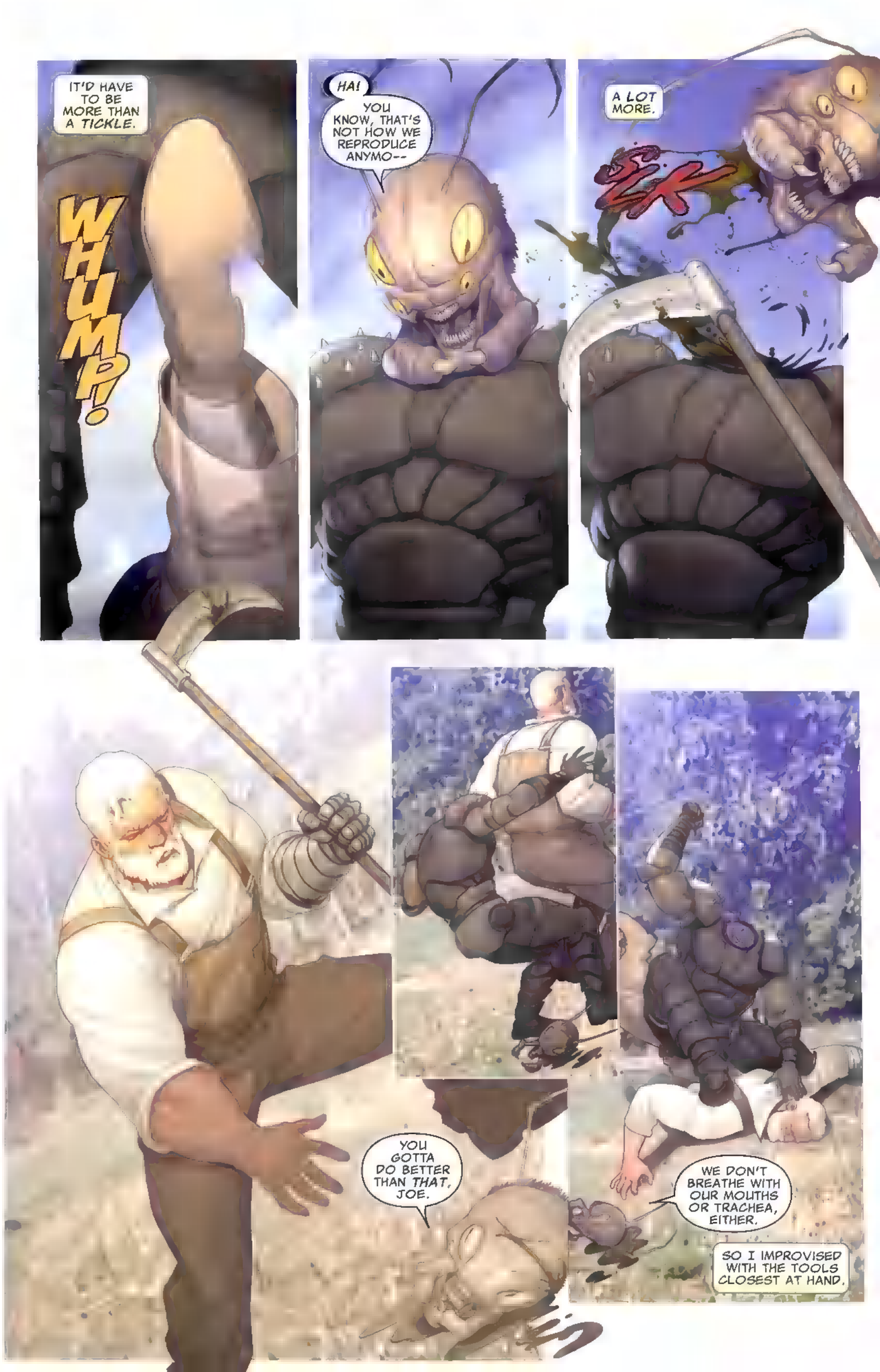

YOU'RE GONNA GIVE ME TROUBLE, AREN'T YOU, FARMER JOE?
WHEN I SAW THE THING BENEATH THE MASK, I REALLY, REALLY WISHED I'D DUG UP MY WEAPONS FIRST.
ALL I HAD WERE MY FISTS.
WHICH WEREN'T GOING TO BE GOOD ENOUGH.

I HADN'T BEEN HIT THAT HARD IN YEARS.
MY MUSCLES HAD GONE SOFT. I WASN'T USED TO THAT KIND OF ASSAULT ANYMORE.
THE CLOSEST THING WAS YOU, LITTLE GIRL, JUMPING ON MY CHEST FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.

WITH YOU, THOUGH, A LITTLE BIT OF TICKLING AND YOU SURRENDER.

THAT WOULDN'T WORK HERE.

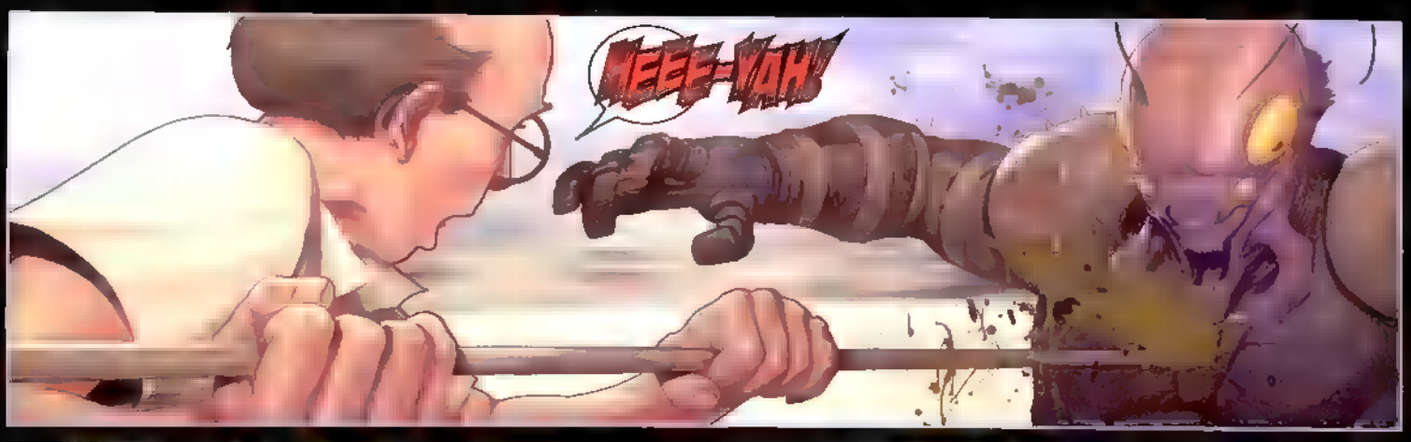
OKAY, JOE. READY FOR THAT MEETING NOW?


IT'D HAVE TO BE MORE THAN A TICKLE.
WHUMP!
HA! YOU KNOW, THAT'S NOT HOW WE REPRODUCE ANYMO--
A LOT MORE.
EK
YOU GOTTA DO BETTER THAN THAT, JOE.
WE DON'T BREATHE WITH OUR MOUTHS OR TRACHEA, EITHER.
SO I IMPROVISED WITH THE TOOLS CLOSEST AT HAND.

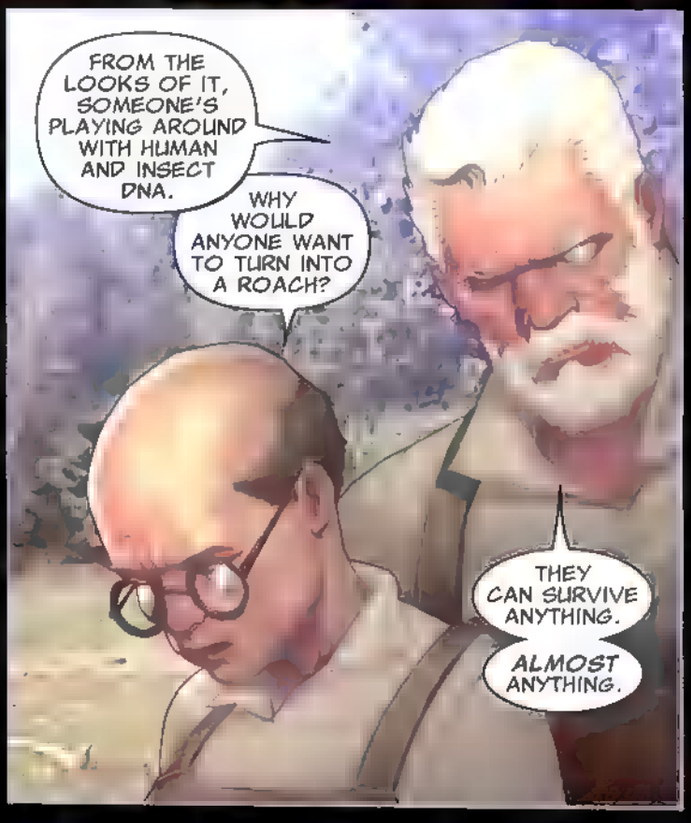
YOU LOOK LIKE A COCKROACH.
LET ME GUESS--YOU BREATHE THROUGH SMALL SPIRACLES IN YOUR CHEST?
HEY! WAIT!
IF IT BREATHES, IT LIVES.
JUST A MATTER OF FINDING WHERE THE AIR GOES IN AND OUT.
JAYSUS, NATHAN.
AAARRRGHGLHGLIGHGLIG...

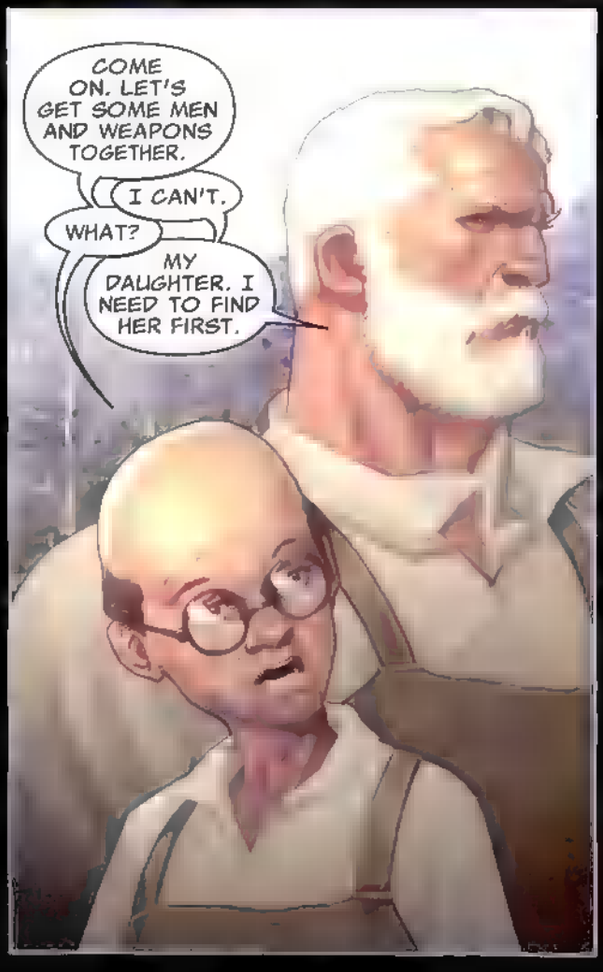
ANYTHING?
OH... WAY TOO MUCH.
I THINK HE DESTROYED AUSTRALIA...ASIA... THE MIDDLE EAST...
WHEN?
IT'S UNCLEAR.
HARD TO FIX ON ANYTHING CONCRETE LIKE A DATE WHEN ALL YOU SEE IS A BLINDING LIGHT AND BURNING FLESH AND SCREAMING PEOPLE...
THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ME, LOVE.
I KNOW, EMMA. BUT YOU SAID AUSTRALIA, RIGHT?
LUCAS TOLD US HIS PARENTS WERE ABORIGINES. THEY FLED AUSTRALIA BEFORE IT WAS NUKED IN HIS TIMELINE, AND ENDED UP IN A MUTANT CAMP. WHY WOULD HE...?
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING. THEIR APPEARANCE MEANS I CAN'T TELL IF HIS MEMORIES ARE DREAMS, OR THE REAL THING.
YOU NEED TO GO AT HIM AGAIN.
NO, SCOTT.
I GO ANY FURTHER... THERE WON'T BE ANY OF BISHOP'S MIND LEFT TO PROBE.

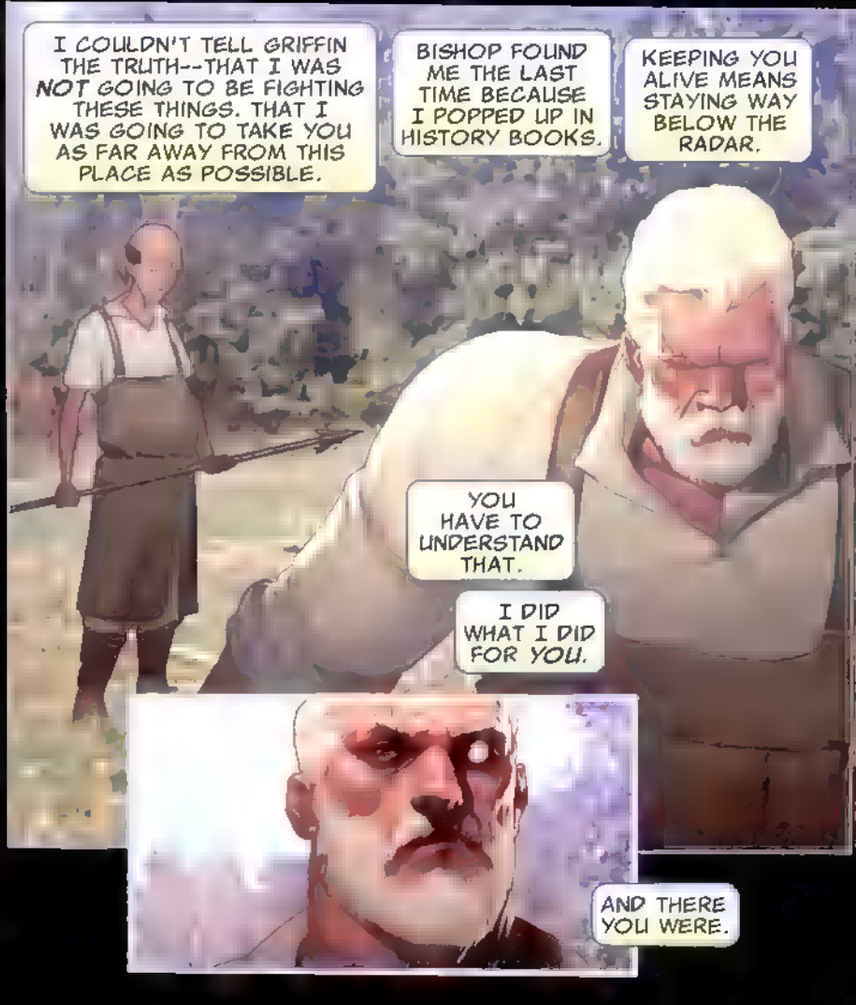
THE FUTURE.
YOU KNOW, I CAME TO NEW LIBERTY THINKING I'D SEEN MY LAST FREAKIN' ROACH. JOKE'S ON ME.
GRIFF-- HAVE YOU SEEN MY DAUGHTER ANYWHERE?
OH GOD. SHE'S NOT... OUT HERE, IS SHE?
CITIZENS. WE NEED YOU BOTH AT THE MEETING.
AIM FOR THE CHEST.
WHAT?
THESE THINGS WERE TOUGH. BUT NOT INVINCIBLE.
YOU JUST HAD TO BREAK YOUR WAY THROUGH THEIR SHELLS.
NOW!


EEE-YAH

ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE MORE THAN A FARMER AND HIS KID.
SO... WHAT'RE OUR THOUGHTS ON THESE THINGS?

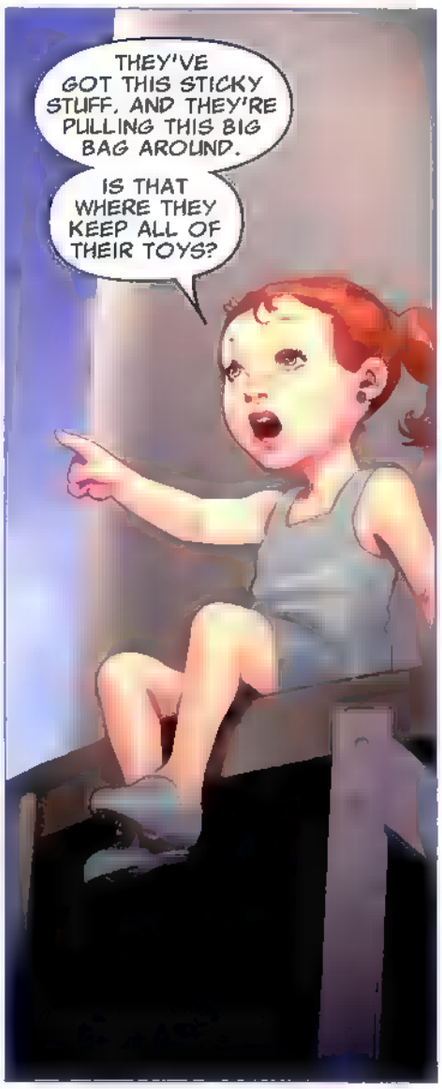

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, SOMEONE'S PLAYING AROUND WITH HUMAN AND INSECT DNA.
WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO TURN INTO A ROACH?
THEY CAN SURVIVE ANYTHING.
ALMOST ANYTHING.


COME ON. LET'S GET SOME MEN AND WEAPONS TOGETHER.
I CAN'T.
WHAT?
MY DAUGHTER. I NEED TO FIND HER FIRST.


I COULDN'T TELL GRIFFIN THE TRUTH--THAT I WAS NOT GOING TO BE FIGHTING THESE THINGS. THAT I WAS GOING TO TAKE YOU AS FAR AWAY FROM THIS PLACE AS POSSIBLE.
BISHOP FOUND ME THE LAST TIME BECAUSE I POPPED UP IN HISTORY BOOKS.
KEEPING YOU ALIVE MEANS STAYING WAY BELOW THE RADAR.
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT.
I DID WHAT I DID FOR YOU.
AND THERE YOU WERE.

NOW.
ANY TRACES OF RADIATION ON THE ARM?
ANY IDEA OF HOW TO ENGAGE THE TIME COMPONENTS?
NO.
NOT YET.
HAVE YOU GOT ANYTHING AT ALL?
THERE IS THIS STRANGE LITTLE PART WE FOUND, RIGHT OVER HERE. BUT WE CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT IT DOES.
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS HERE.
OH? THE TORTURE NOT WORKING OUT FOR YOU?
COME ON, HANK...
NO...YOU COME ON, SCOTT. I'VE BEEN MONITORING HIS HEART RATE AND BRAIN WAVES FROM UP HERE--
"DO YOU REALIZE HOW CLOSE YOU WERE TO KILLING HIM?"

NATHAN, THEY'RE EVERYWHERE.
GET DOWN HERE. NOW. HAVE YOU LOST YOUR LITTLE MIND?


THEY'VE GOT THIS STICKY STUFF, AND THEY'RE PULLING THIS BIG BAG AROUND.
IS THAT WHERE THEY KEEP ALL OF THEIR TOYS?

HONEY, THOSE MEN ARE SOLDIERS. THEY'RE... CONFUSED.
SOME PEOPLE HAVE DONE THINGS TO THEM, AND NOW THEY'RE...

I VOWED TO NEVER LIE TO YOU, NO MATTER WHAT.
I CAN NEVER AFFORD TO UNDERMINE YOUR TRUST IN ME.

THEY'RE MONSTERS.
COME ON. WE HAVE TO GO.
NO, I WON'T. LET'S GO.
THEY CAN TURN PEOPLE INTO MONSTERS? EWWWW.
YOU WON'T LET THEM TURN ME INTO A MONSTER, WILL YOU?

...BEEN HIDDEN AWAY HERE SO LONG. AND I UNDERSTAND WHY.
IT'S A SCARY WORLD OUT THERE. IT'S EVEN SCARIER THAN SOME OF YOU OLDER FOLKS MAY REMEMBER.
WHERE'S MOMMY? I CAN'T SEE HER.
SHHH.
THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. WHICH IS WHY WE'VE BROUGHT EVERYONE PROTECTIVE MATERIALS TO SURVIVE THE HARSH CONDITIONS.
AND TOGETHER, WE CAN TAKE BACK AMERICA!
ONE GLORIOUS STATE AT A TIME!
MOMM--!

I HAD LEFT HER ALONE, BACK AT THE HOUSE.
DEFENSELESS.
YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF THIS GREAT NATION. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, THE LIFEBLOOD OF THE NEW AMERICA.
NATHAN! GO GET HER!
YOU HAVE TO GO GET HER!
I WANTED TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING WOULD BE OKAY.
BUT I WILL NEVER LIE TO YOU.
NO. WE HAVE TO KEEP--
WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO SAVE MOMMY?
THIS ISN'T THE TIME. WE HAVE TO GO BACK--
BUT MOMMY'S RIGHT THERE WITH THOSE SCARY MONSTERS AND COVERED IN ALL OF THAT STICKY STUFF AND--
WE'RE GOING. NOW!
NO! I HATE YOU!!
I HATE YOU HATE YOU HATE YOU!!

NOW.
YOU THINK I'M ENJOYING THIS?
GIVE ME SOMETHING, LUCAS. ANYTHING. CONVINCE ME YOU'RE SOMETHING OTHER THAN A MASS MURDERER.
...
I'VE GOT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I DON'T EXACTLY TRUST YOU RIGHT NOW.
NO, SCOTT. YOU NEED TO SEE THIS.
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE TO DIG IT UP. SEND WHOEVER YOU WANT--LOGAN, WHOEVER.
ONCE YOU SEE WHAT'S IN THAT BOX, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING.
TELL ME WHERE IT IS.

YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME.

YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT I WILL ALWAYS PROTECT YOU.

YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT I WILL MAKE THESE DECISIONS FOR YOU.

EVEN IF THEY SEEM WRONG AT THE TIME.

BUT YOU ALSO HAVE TO KNOW THAT I WILL MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH TO AVOID BREAKING YOUR HEART.
YOU LOOK HANDSOME, NATHAN.
C'MON. LET'S GO GET YOUR MOTHER.

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SAVE AMERICA WITHOUT YOU.
YOU'RE THE FUTURE OF OUR GREAT NATION!
SPLURG
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID!
TO BE CONTINUED...